Grant of PCO connection

1283. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received during 1996 pending for grant of PCO connections at Anisabad Telephone Exchange, Patna;

(b) whether it is a fact that some applications are still pending;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that an application dated 2nd January, 1996 with Registration Number ANB-0001 is still pending whereas applications received at later dates have been granted PCO connections; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and by when PCO connection for this application be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Sir, 155 application were received during 1996 at Anisabad Telephone Exchange, Patna.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These are pending due to non-availability of exchange capacity.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

Service Tax charged by PCO operators

1284. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the private PCO/STD/ISD operators in charge service tax twice from subscribers who make STD/ISD calls from their booths;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, procedure laid down to report these cases with action fixed in such cases;

(c) whether the MTNL has been charging service tax @ 5% from subscribers on rental and calls amount; and

(d) whether such service tax is also charge from subscribers whose telephones remain faulty despite complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Whenever complaints for over-charging are received, action as per rules is taken.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Service Tax is charged on billed amount. In case telephones; remain faulty for more than 7 days continuously, the subscriber is eligible for rebate in rental as well as Service Tax.

Waiting list for telephone in metro cities

1285. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of wait-listed customers for telephone in all the metro cities as on date, city-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to clear the waitlist and by when the waitlist is likely to be cleared; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to revise the telephone tariffs, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Total number of waitliseted customers for Telephone in all the Metrocities as on 30-11-1998, City-wise is given below:—

City	Wait List as on 30.11.1998
(i) Calcutta	16,153
(ii) Chennai	72,377
(iii) Delhi	1,326
(iv) Mumbai	Nil